

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A housing for a computer system, the housing comprising:
  - 2 a storage compartment including:
    - 3 a body having an interior, a bottom and a sidewall that define the
    - 4 interior, and a passage operable to allow an item disposed
    - 5 within the interior to be communicatively coupled to another
    - 6 item outside the interior; and
  - 7 a lid.
- 1 2. The housing of claim 1 wherein the interior is sized to retain a PDA.
- 1 3. The housing of claim 1 wherein the interior is sized to hold storage media.
- 1 4. The housing of claim 1 wherein the sidewall includes the passage.
- 1 5. The housing of claim 1 wherein the storage compartment includes a coupling
- 2 element operable to couple the lid to the sidewall.
- 1 6. The housing of claim 1 wherein the storage compartment includes a locking
- 2 element operable to retain the lid in a closed position.
- 1 7. The housing of claim 1 wherein:
  - 2 the housing further comprises a conduit having an opening; and
  - 3 the passage opens to the conduit's opening.
- 1 8. A housing for a computer system, the housing comprising:
  - 2 a storage compartment including:
    - 3 a body having an interior, a bottom and a sidewall that define the
    - 4 interior, and
    - 5 a lid having an opening operable to allow access to an item
    - 6 disposed within the interior.
  - 1 9. The housing of claim 8 wherein the interior is sized to retain a camera
  - 2 docking station, and when a camera is coupled to the docking station, the
  - 3 camera protrudes through the opening.

- 1 10. A computer system comprising:
  - 2 a housing having a storage compartment to retain an item and including:
    - 3 a body having an interior, a bottom and a sidewall that define the
    - 4 interior, and a passage operable to allow an item disposed
    - 5 within the interior to be communicatively coupled to another
    - 6 item outside the interior; and
  - 7 a lid.
- 1 11. A computer system comprising:
  - 2 a housing having a storage compartment to retain an item and including:
    - 3 a body having an interior, a bottom and a sidewall that define the
    - 4 interior, and
  - 5 a lid having an opening operable to allow an item disposed within
  - 6 the interior to protrude through the opening.
- 1 12. A method for storing an item, the method comprising:
  - 2 placing an item in an interior of a storage compartment that includes a lid
  - 3 and a body having a bottom and a sidewall that define the interior;
  - 4 extending a cable from the exterior of the storage compartment through a
  - 5 passage in the body; and
  - 6 coupling the cable to the item in the interior.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein extending a cable from the exterior of the
- 2 storage compartment includes extending the cable through an opening of a
- 3 conduit.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising closing the lid.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
  - 2 closing the lid, and
  - 3 supporting another item on the lid.
- 1 16. A method for storing an item, the method comprising:

2 placing an item in an interior of a storage compartment that includes a lid  
3 having an opening, and a body having a bottom and a sidewall that  
4 define the interior;  
5 inserting another item through the opening; and  
6 coupling the items together.